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DEATH OF THE FAMILY

BATMAN

THE NEW 52!



SCOTT
SNYDER
GREG
CAPULLO
JONATHAN
GLAPION

APR 2013

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BATMAN

THE NEW 52!

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APR 2013
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**Digital Copy
Inside!**

THE FIRST
TIME WAS
FRIGHTENING,
WASN'T IT?

WWW...
WHH.

IT'S OKAY. IT
WAS SCARY FOR
ME, TOO!

WHERE...

SHHHH.
YOU'RE
SAFE.

LOOK! LOOK!
HERE IT COMES,
SEEEEEE?

JOKER...

YESSS, DARLING.
JOKER IS HERE WITH
YOU IN THE DARK. WE'RE
WATCHING IT COME FOR YOU,
AS I'M SURE IT DID
THAT FIRST TIME.

OOHHH...
IT WANTSSSS
YOU! WANTS
YOU BAD!

JOKER,
LISTEN
TO--

NO. THERE IS
NO REASONING WITH
IT... IT WAS THE SAME
FOR ME, WHEN I SAW IT
COMING... WHEN I SAW
YOU COMING. NO
REASONING!

STOP THIS!
NOW!

AND SO YOU CALLED
OUT THERE IN THE DARK!
EVEN THOUGH YOU KNEW YOU
WERE SEEING IT! YOUR FACE,
THE REAL BONE AND TOOTH
FACE BENEATH IT ALL.

JOKER!

YOU KNEW IT
IN YOUR SOUL, BUT
STILL YOU CALLED OUT TO
SOMEONE, ANYONE, TO
PULL YOU UP FROM
THE DARKNESS.

DC COMICS presents BATMAN in
DEATH OF THE FAMILY CONCLUSION

THE PUNCHLINE

SCOTT SNYDER writer GREG CAPULLO penciller
JONATHAN GLAPION inker

FEO PLASCENCIA colorist RICHARD STARKINGS and
COMICRAFT'S JIMMY BETANCOURT lettering

CAPULLO & PLASCENCIA cover
TONY DANIEL, MATT BANNING & TOMEU MOREY variant cover

KATIE HUBERT assoc. editor MIKE MARTS editor

BATMAN created by BOB KANE

TA-DAA!

DINNER IS
SERVED!

...AND
INTO THE
LIGHT.

MY
GOD...

OH, AND DON'T
WORRY, OLD FRIEND.
THEY'RE ALL FINE
AND DANDY.

MMNNFFF!

JUST BOUND
AND GAGGED, SILENT
LISTENERS AT THE TABLE.
I'VE KEPT THEM ENTERTAINED,
THOUGH. I'VE BEEN TALKING
TO THEM FOR HOURS, TELLING
THEM WHAT YOU REALLY
THINK OF THEM.

THEIR EARS
ARE BURNING!
TSSSS! OW,
HOT! HEE
HEE!

I'LL
DESTROY YOU
FOR THIS,
YOU--

NOT SO
FAST, BATS!
I WOULDN'T GET
UP IF I WERE
YOU. AFTER
ALL...

...YOU SMELL
SOMETHING?



...GASOLINE.



THAT'S RIGHT. THEY'VE BEEN ANOINTED AND THEY AWAIT YOUR JUDGMENT...



...THERE ARE FLINTS BENEATH YOUR THRONE...



...AND UNDER YOUR TABLE, SIRE.



SO AT ANY TIME DURING OUR MEAL, SHOULD YOUR TRUE FEELINGS GET THE BETTER OF YOU, SHOULD YOU TIRE OF THEIR COMPANY...

...ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS STAND, LEAVE THE TABLE, AND THEY WILL BURN WITH SHAME.



NOW, THOUGH, IT'S TIME TO EAT. TO FINALLY LIFT THE LID ON THIS FAMILY DISH!

UUNNNN?

EARLIER, YOU ASKED ABOUT OLD JEEVES. MR. PENNYWORTH?



WHERE... WHERE IS HE?



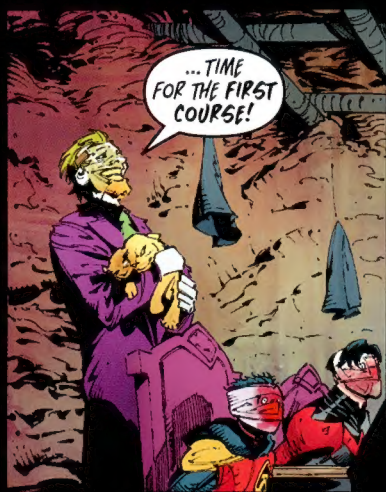
OH, HE'S AROUND, HEE HEE HEEEEE!

AND READY FOR SERVICE. HAHHAHA!



SEE?

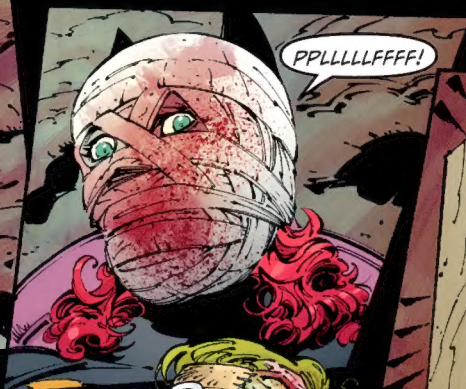




... TIME
FOR THE FIRST
COURSE!



NNNNGG!



PPLLLLFFFF!



JOKER...
WHAT HAVE YOU
DONE?!

WHAT HAVE I
DONE? I'VE SIMPLY
DRESSED THEM FOR
THE PARTY!

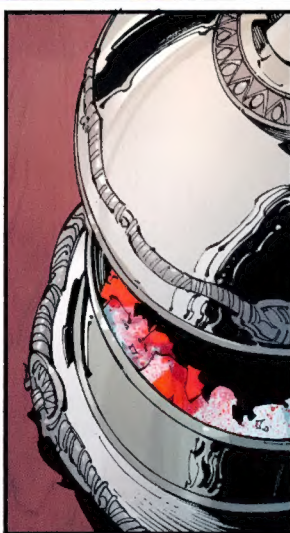
OR RATHER,
UNDRESSED THEM. TAKEN
OFF THE CLOTHES THAT HAVE BEEN
INVISIBLE TO EVERYONE BUT
YOU, MY KING.

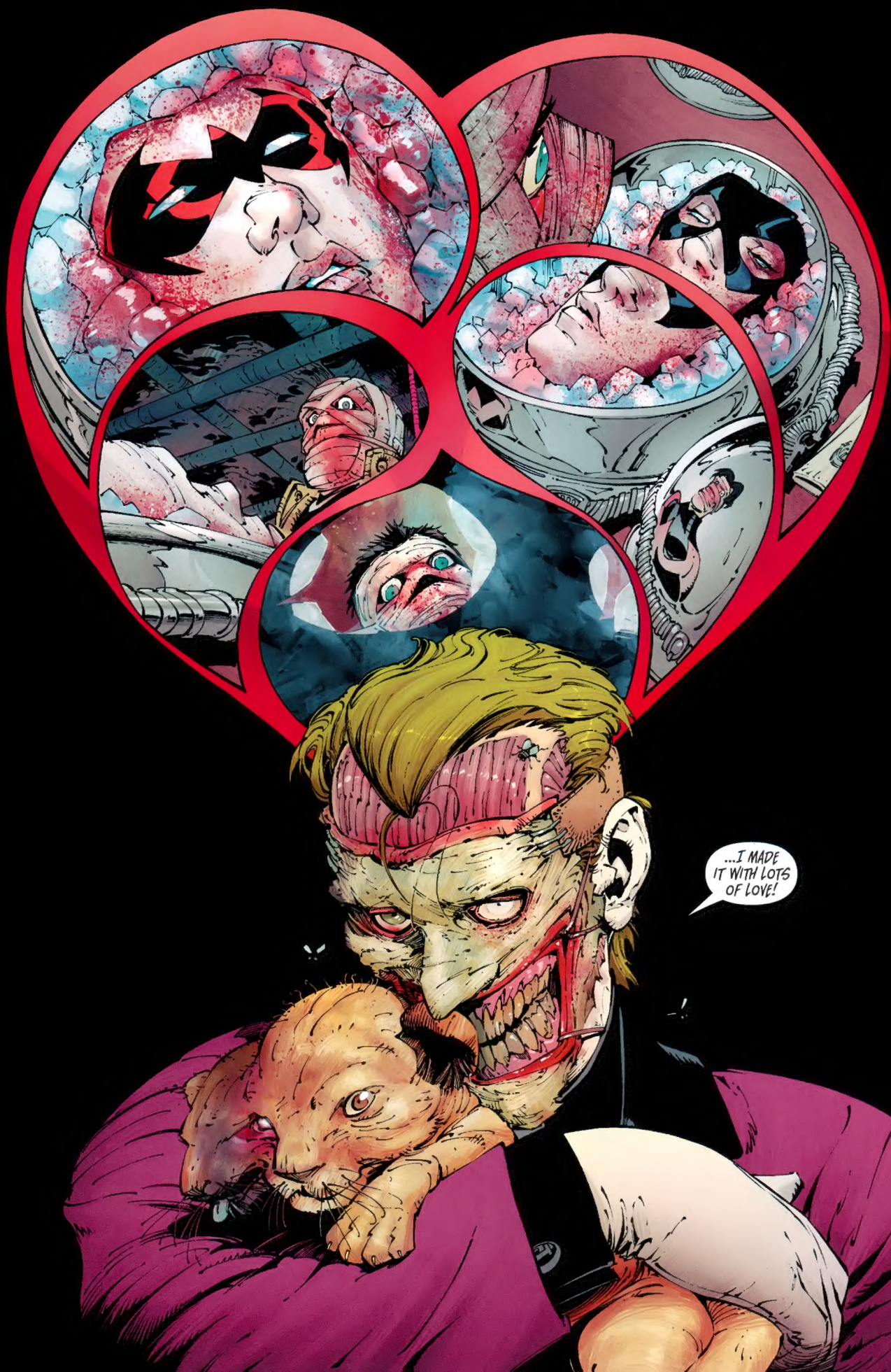
EXPOOOOOSED
THEM.

AND SPEAKING OF
EXPOSING, MR. PENNYWORTH,
WOULD YOU SERVE US,
PLEASSSSSSSSS?



I SO
HOPE YOU LIKE IT,
EVERYONE...





HOW
COULD
YOU?!

HOW? IT WAS EASY, BATS!
JUST SLICE, PULL, CHILL AND SERVE!
A THIRTY MINUTE RECIPE! THEY COME
OFF SO EASILY, TOO. THERE'S NOTHING
BENEATH THESE PRETTY THINGS,
AFTER ALL. THEY'RE NOT LIKE
YOU AND ME, YOU SEE, NOT
UNDER THE SKIN.

THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN
TRYING TO TELL YOU! WHY I
DID THIS TO MY OWN SWEET
MUG. TO SHOW YOU...

...SHOW YOU THAT
BENEATH THESE FACES, WELL,
IT'S JUST SOFT, TENDER STUFF.
STUFF YOU COULD JUST POKE
YOUR FINGER THROUGH.

BENEATH MY GRIN, THOUGH,
IS JUST MORE GRIN! HA HA! AND
BENEATH THAT FACE OF YOURS IS
SOMETHING SNOOTED AND FANGED AND
LOVELY AND THAT'S WHAT THIS IS ABOUT.
REMINING YOU OF THE LOVE WE
SHARE, YOU AND I!

I HATE NOTHING
MORE ON THIS EARTH
THAN YOU, JOKER.
NOTHING.

HAHAHA! OH, I BEG TO DIFFER. IF THAT'S SO,
THEN WHY, PRAY TELL, HAVE YOU NEVER PEEKED
BEHIND MY CURTAIN, OH GREAT DETECTIVE?
NEVER EXPOSED ME, WHO I REALLY AM,
OR WAS, BEFORE MY BECOMING.

THERE'S
NEVER BEEN ANY
D.N.A. TO LINK
YOU TO--

TUT-TUT. NEVER MIND.
LET'S JUST CUT RIGHT TO
THE HEART OF IT, SHALL WE? THE
BLACK, SHRUNKEN HEART. BEAT-BEAT.
BEAT-BEAT. WHY HAVE YOU
NEVER KILLED ME?

BECAUSE
YOU'D... WIN.

HAHAHA! I LOVE THAT
ONE! WOO... RIGHT, BECAUSE
I'D WIN. NO, SEE, THIS... THIS
IS HOW I WIN, BATSSSS. I
WIN BY LIVING. BY KEEP ON
KEEPING ON.

WHAT YOU
JUST SAID--THAT
YOU DON'T DO IT BECAUSE
I'D WIN--THAT'S WHAT YOU TELL
YOURSELF, WHAT YOU TELL THEM,
BECAUSE YOU DON'T WANT TO
ADMIT THE TRUTH, THE BAD
NEWS OF YOUR OWN SOUL.

THAT AND THE
OLD SLIPPERY-SLOPE
EXCUSE, AM I RIGHT? YOU
KILL ME, AND SUDDENLY,
WHO KNOWS?! WHAT'S
STOPPING YOU FROM
KILLING ALL OF US
BADDIES FROM GOING
ON A DOWNRIGHT
SPREE?!



BUT I CALL GUANO THERE, OLD FRIEND. I MEAN, YOU REALLY THINK YOU COULDN'T KILL JUST ME, JOKER, AND STOP? NO ONE WOULD HAVE TO KNOW.

YOU COULD DO IT SOMEWHERE AWAY FROM PRYING EYESSSS, DOWN IN THE DARK, AND THEN YOU COULD BEAR THAT CROSS, COULDN'T YOU?

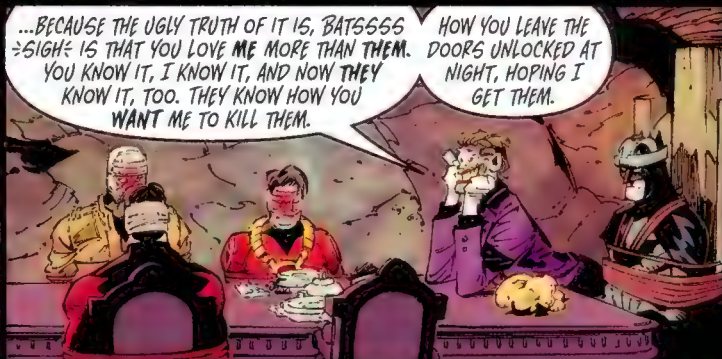
ALAS, POOR JOKER, I KNEW HIM AND SO ON?

NO.



AH, THAT'S YOUR STORY AND YOU'RE STICKING TO IT (HEE HEE). BUT THEN ANSWER ME THIS DITTY. HOW DID I KNOW? HOW DID I KNOW YOU'D NEVER TELL THEM ABOUT THIS?! ABOUT HOW I'D BEEN IN YOUR LITTLE H.Q.?

BECAUSE WE HAVE AN UNDERSTANDING. I'LL BET YOU'VE SAID IT TO THEM THESE PAST FEW DAYS, HAVEN'T YOU? "YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND HIM." SURE YOU HAVE...



...BECAUSE THE UGLY TRUTH OF IT IS, BATSSSSSS ~~SIGH~~ IS THAT YOU LOVE ME MORE THAN THEM. YOU KNOW IT, I KNOW IT, AND NOW THEY KNOW IT, TOO. THEY KNOW HOW YOU WANT ME TO KILL THEM.

HOW YOU LEAVE THE DOORS UNLOCKED AT NIGHT, HOPING I GET THEM.



HOPING I GET HIM.

AND HIM.

AND HIM (AGAIN).

AND HIM.

AND HER.



IN THE END, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WROTE THIS FOR ME, DARLING...



...A LOVE
LETTER.
A BACKWARDS
MAP. A HIT
LIST...

...AND SO, BATS, I DID IT
FOR YOU. I CARRIED OUT
YOUR ORDERS. AND NOW ALL
THAT'S LEFT FOR US TO DO,
YOU AND I, IS CELEBRATE!
SO LET'S, MY FRIEND. LET'S
PUT THE KIDDIES TO BED
AND RAISE SOME HELL.

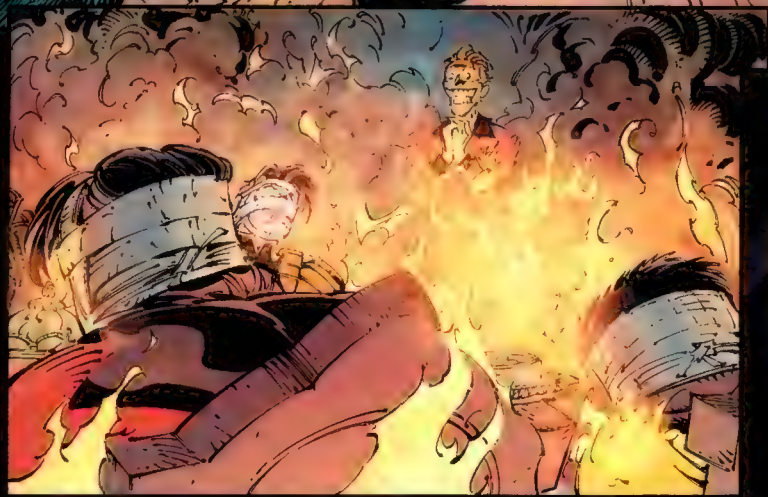
WELL,
WOULD YOU
LIKE TO DO THE
HONORS?

OR
SHALL
I?

...GO ON.
OR I WILL.
I KNOW YOU
WANT TO...

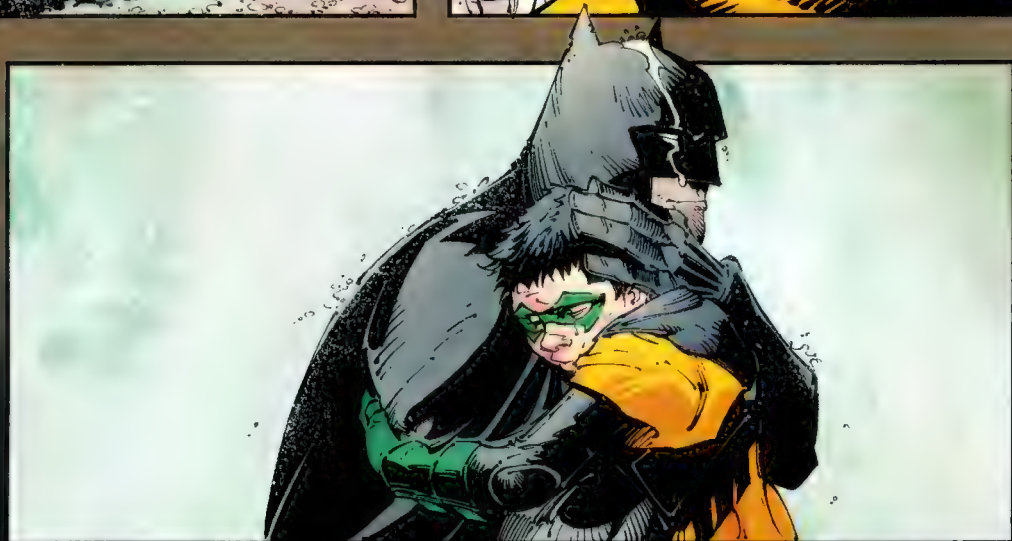


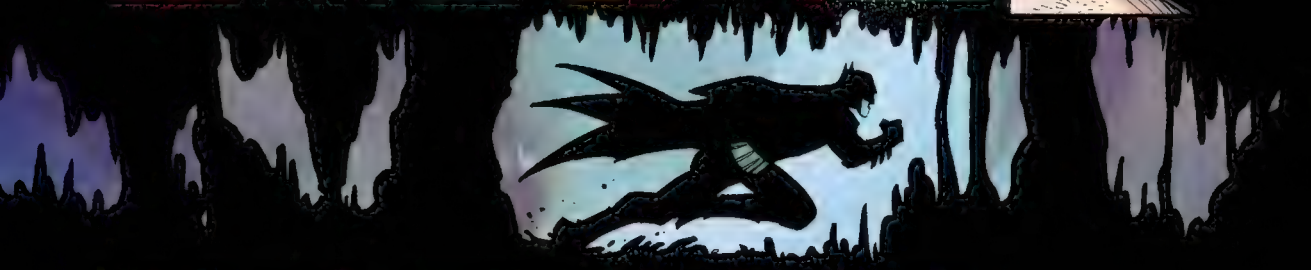
...AH,
LOVE.

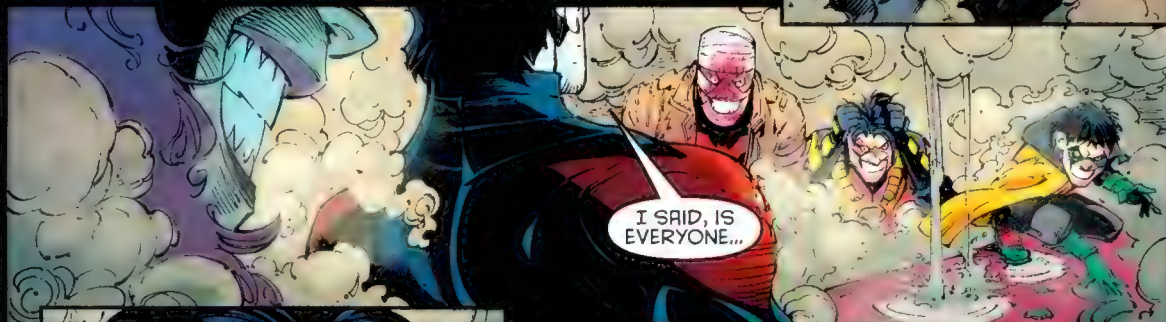
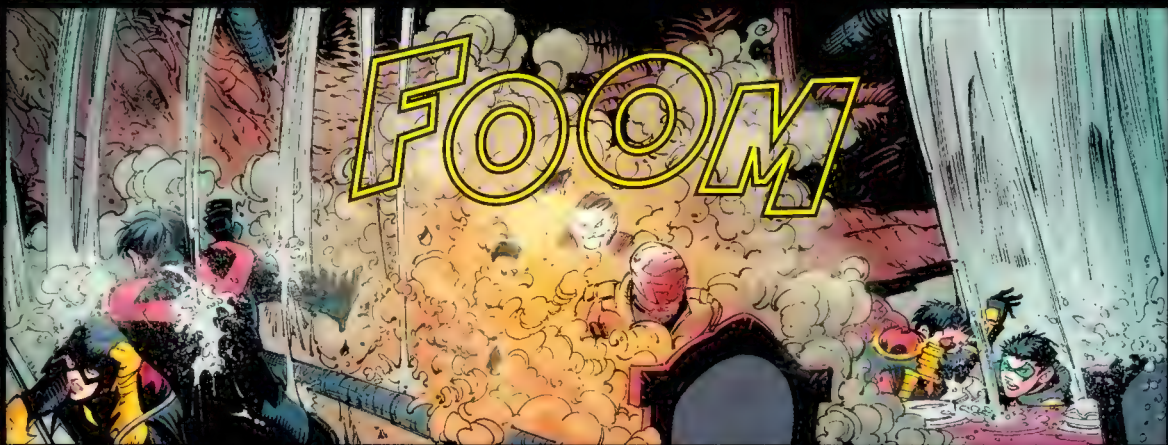


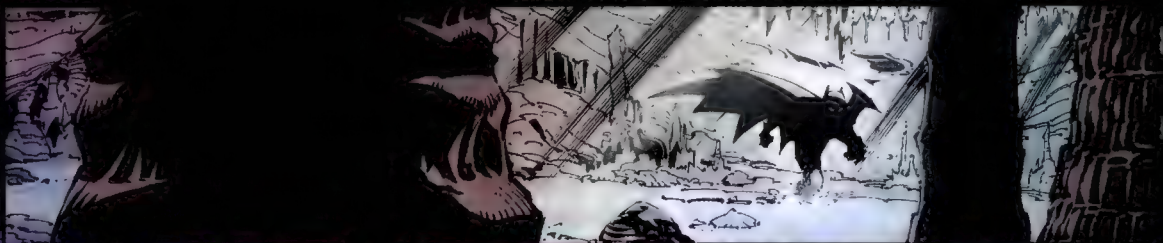
YOU KNOW
ME SO WELL,
JOKER, YOU
SHOULD HAVE
REALIZED...



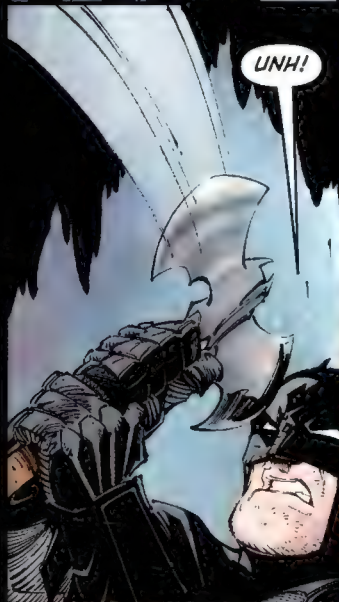








YAHHHH!



UNH!



YOU
HAD TO GO
AND RUIN THE
MOOD, DIDN'T
YOU?



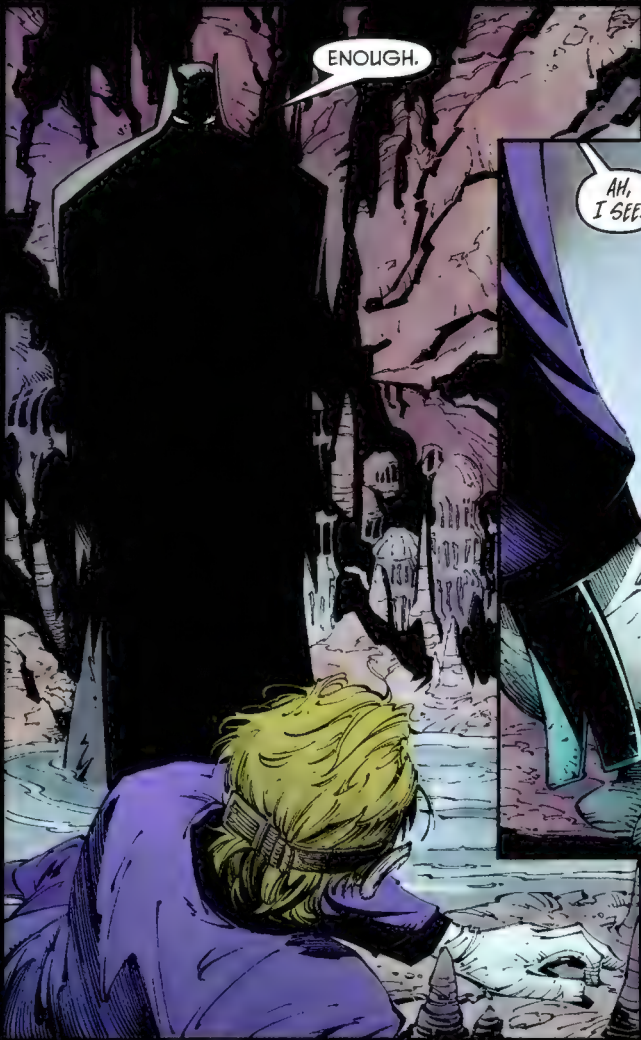
BLOWING OUT
THE CANDLES, KILLING
THE AMBIANCE!

WELL, AT LEAST YOU
FOLLOWED ME OUTSIDE
TO CONSOLE ME, PICK MY
CORSAGE OFF THE GROUND
AND TALK ME BACK
INTO YOUR ARM--

SHUT
UP.



NO
MORE
TALK.



ENOUGH.



AH, I SEE.



A DANCE, THEN!



NO MORE DANCES.



WHAT... WHAT DO YOU MEAN? HEH.

I MEAN, NO MORE OF ANY OF IT...

NO MORE QUARRELING...

≡KOFF≡
HEH HEH...
THEN JUST THE
QUARREL.



...NOT THIS TIME.



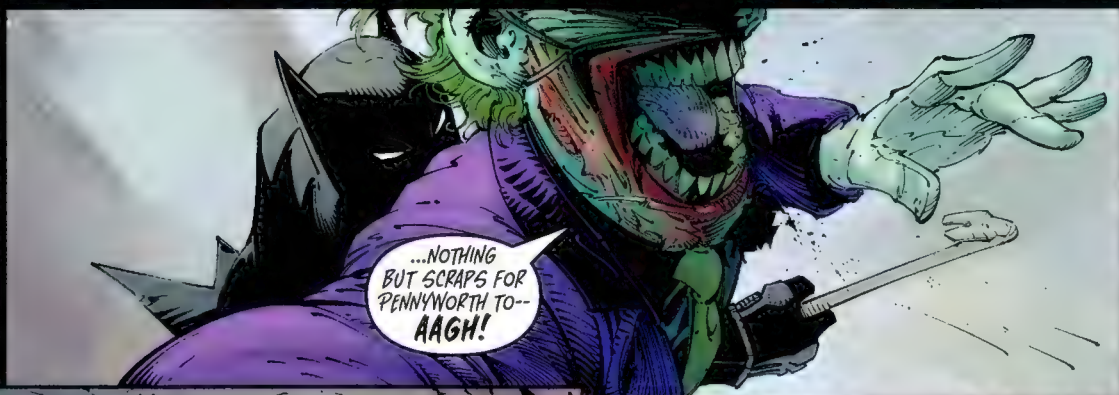
"HEE HEE! OH, BUT YES, BATS. THIS TIME, TOO. I MADE SURE... SURE YOU'LL GET WHAT YOU REALLY WANT!"



"RIGHT NOW, YOUR PRECIOUS FAMILY IS TEARING ITSELF APART. I GASSED THEM. A NEW CONCOCTION, PARTICULARLY POTENT, OLD FRIEND!"



"GO IF I WERE YOU, I'D GO BACK AND HELP THEM BEFORE THERE'S NOTHING LEFT..."



...NOTHING
BUT SCRAPS FOR
PENNYWORTH TO--
AAGH!

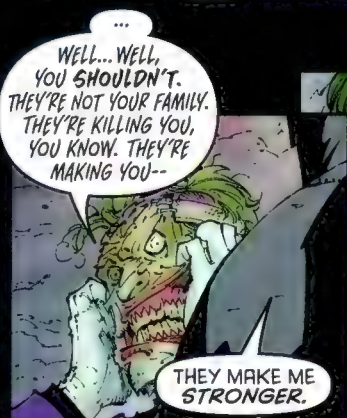


OW!



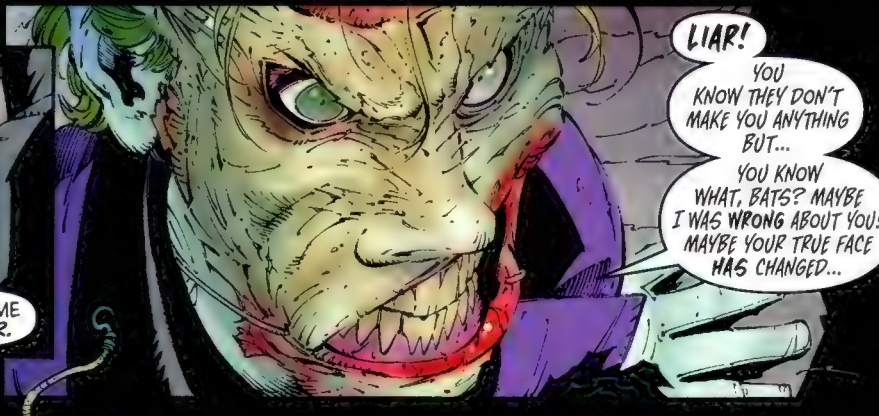
≡KOFF≡ RIGHT,
BATSSSS, RIGHT.
YOU'RE REALLY JUST
GOING TO LET THEM
DIE, HAHAAH! SURE
YOU ARE!

NO. BUT
I HAVE FAITH
IN THEM.



WELL... WELL,
YOU SHOULDN'T.
THEY'RE NOT YOUR FAMILY.
THEY'RE KILLING YOU,
YOU KNOW. THEY'RE
MAKING YOU--

THEY MAKE ME
STRONGER.



LIAR!

YOU
KNOW THEY DON'T
MAKE YOU ANYTHING
BUT...

YOU KNOW
WHAT, BATS? MAYBE
I WAS WRONG ABOUT YOU!
MAYBE YOUR TRUE FACE
HAS CHANGED...



...LET'S
SEE!



HAHA
HAHA...



...HAHAHA--
AGH!

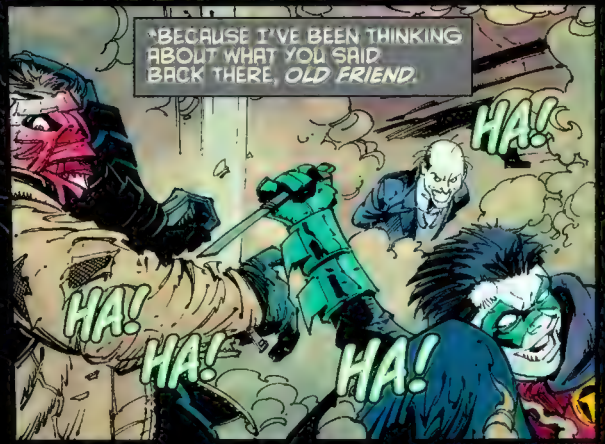


NOT THAT WAY,
JOKER. NOT BY
ACCIDENT...



EVERYTHING THAT
HAPPENS TO YOU
TONIGHT HAPPENS
BY MY HAND.

HA! HA!
HA!
HA!



"BECAUSE I'VE BEEN THINKING
ABOUT WHAT YOU SAID
BACK THERE, OLD FRIEND."

HA!
HA!
HA!



"ABOUT WHY I DON'T
JUST DO IT, FINALLY..."

HAHAHAHA...
NONONO...
HAHAHAHA



...SO HOW ABOUT IT, JOKER? HOW ABOUT TONIGHT I GO *FARTHER* WITH YOU THAN I'VE EVER GONE?

HOW ABOUT TONIGHT, I *STOP* THE GAME ONCE AND FOR ALL?



YOU LOVE IT! DENY IT ALL YOU WANT, YOU LOVE ME LIKE YOU LOVE--

I DID IT, JOKER.



I BROKE THE SPELL

I DID WHAT YOU WOULDN'T DO. RIGHT HERE IS WHERE YOU TURNED BACK, ISN'T IT? RIGHT AT THIS DROP, WHERE THE BOAT DIVES.

NOT BECAUSE YOU COULDN'T HOLD ON, BUT BECAUSE YOU WOULDN'T *WANT* TO KNOW. BUT SEE, ME, I'M NOT LIKE YOU...NOT ANYMORE, JOKER.

AND THIS YEAR, WHILE YOU WERE AWAY, I FINALLY DEDUCED IT. WHO YOU WERE *BEFORE*.

YOU'RE LYING! YOU'RE PLAYING MY OWN JOKE--

YOUR NAME. YOUR HISTORY. YOUR FAMILY. *ALL* OF IT. HERE. I'LL WHISPER IT TO YOU...



...WHISPER IT RIGHT INTO YOUR EAR, DARLING.

NO...



WHO YOU ARE UNDERNEATH THE GRIN.

HAHAHAHAHAHAHA--
FAMILYFAMILYFAMILY--
HAHA

HA!

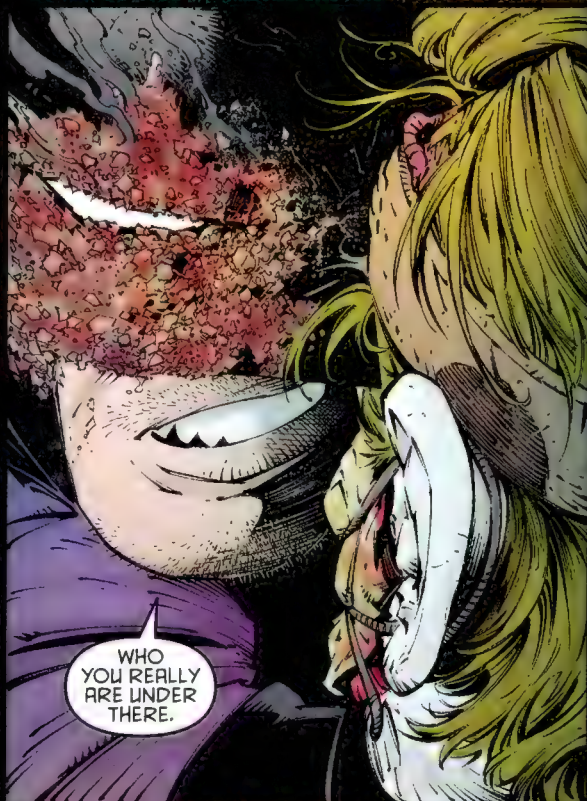
HA!
HA!

HA!

HA!

HA!

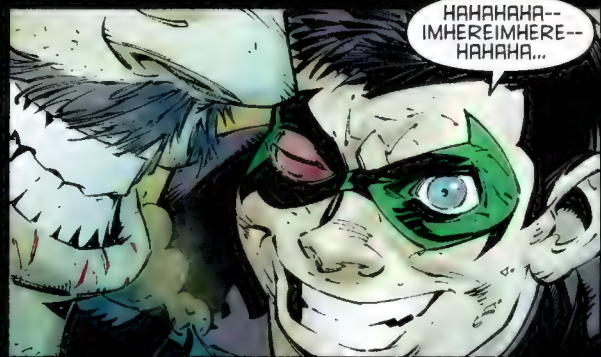
HA!



WHO
YOU REALLY
ARE UNDER
THERE.



HAHAHA--
STOPSTOPSTOP--
HAHahaha

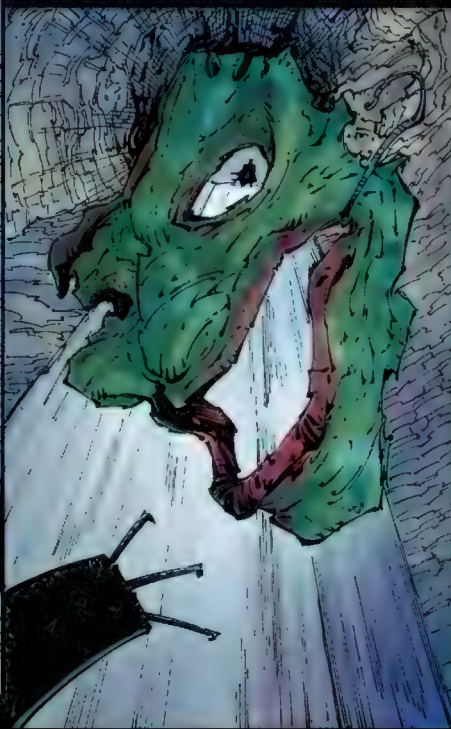
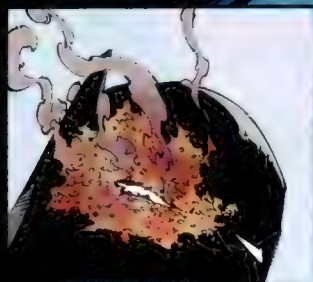


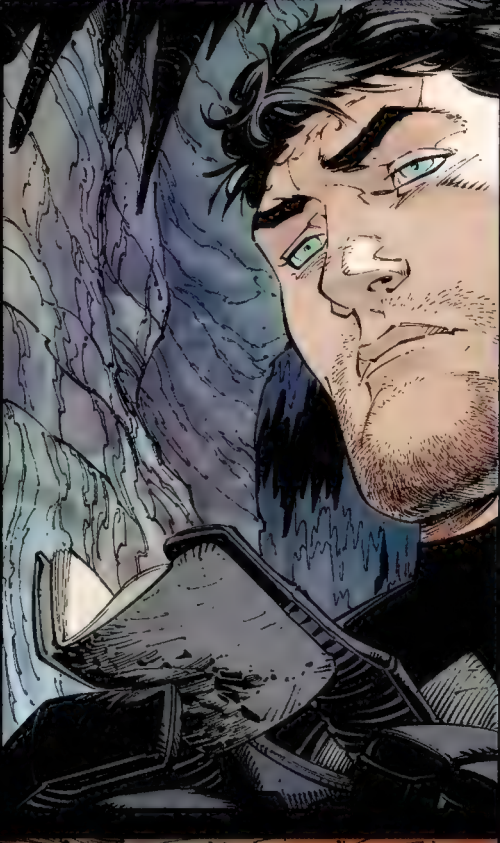
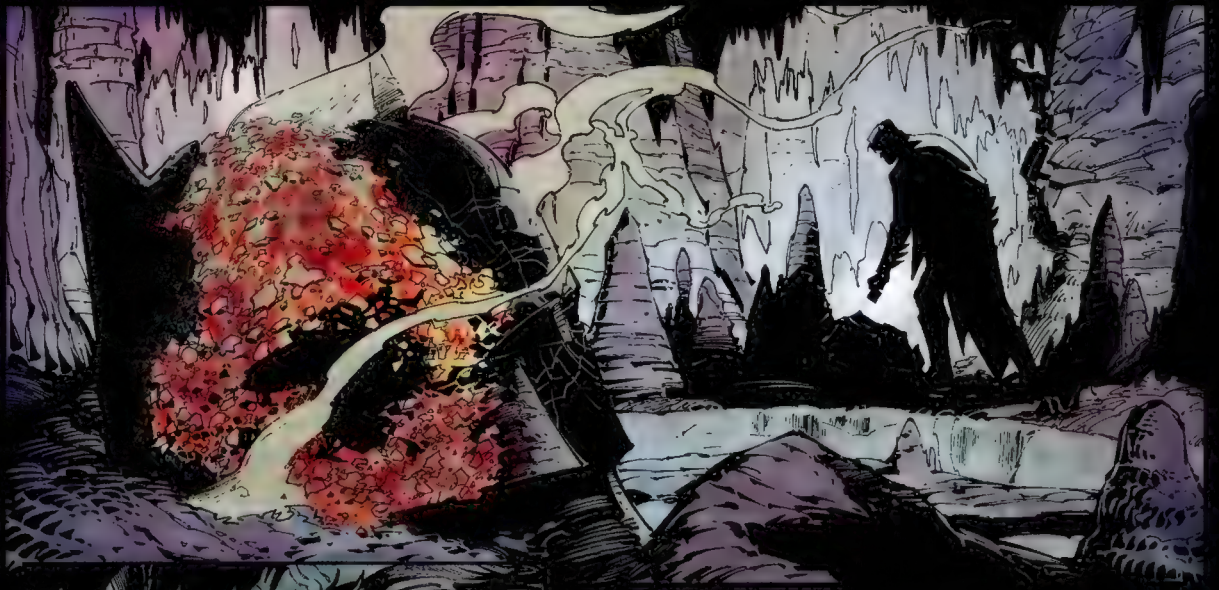
HAHAHAHA--
IMHEREIMHERE--
HAHahaha...

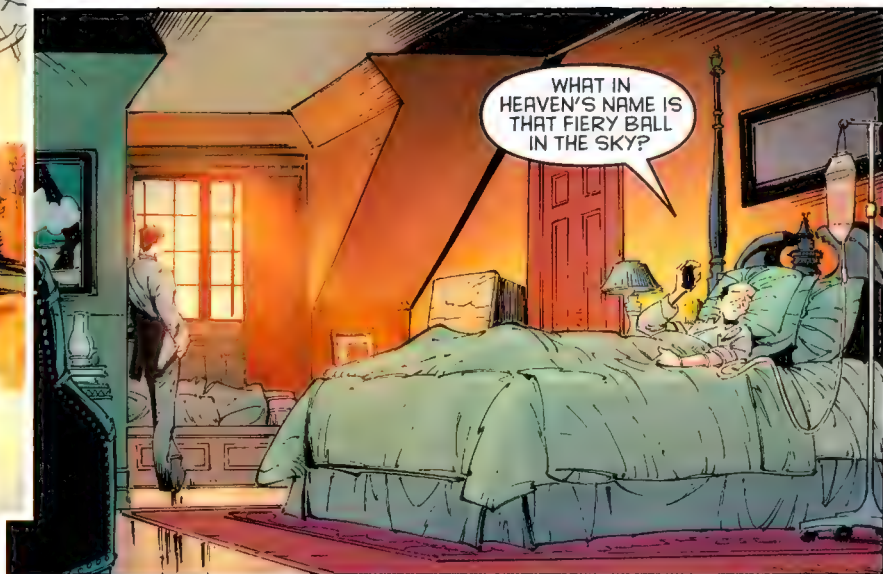


STOP IT!
I'M NOT
LISTENING!

YOUR
NAME, JOKER--
YOUR REAL
NAME IS...







LIKE HELL, HONESTLY, BUT I'LL BE ALL RIGHT SOON. HOW ARE *THEY*?



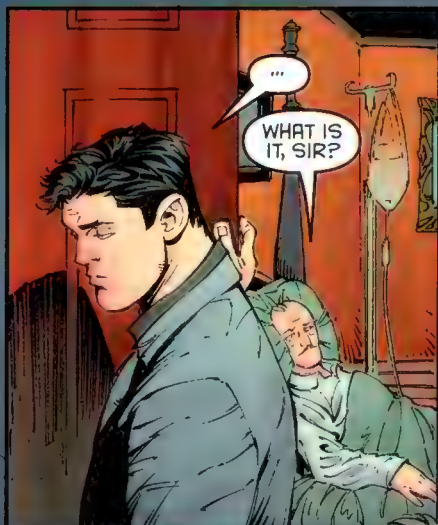
AND YOU, MASTER BRUCE? HOW ARE YOU?



WHAT IN--



GO TO HELL.



*... IN **ARKHAM**. IT WAS JUST AFTER WE TOOK DICK IN. I WENT UNDER THE GUISE OF BRUCE WAYNE INVESTING IN A NEW WING FOR THE ASYLUM.




*WHEN WE NEARED HIS CELL, I ASKED THE DIRECTOR FOR A GLASS OF WATER. MADE A SHOW OF IT.



"ONCE I WAS ALONE, I WENT TO HIS DOOR."






I FOUND
THIS. I THINK
IT BELONGS
TO YOU.



*HE LOOKED RIGHT
AT THE CARD, ALFRED,
AND RIGHT AT ME.



*... BUT... BUT HE DIDN'T
SEE ME. HE DIDN'T
SEE ME AT ALL.



*IT WAS THEN
THAT I KNEW--

*--KNEW THAT HE DIDN'T *CARE* WHO
I WAS BENEATH THE MASK, AND
NEVER WOULD. KNEW THAT HE WAS
INCAPABLE OF EVEN BROACHING
THE SUBJECT OF BRUCE WAYNE.
IT WOULD RUIN HIS *FUN*.*



SO I KNEW THERE WAS NO CHANCE HE GOT INTO THE CAVE. I KNEW IT BECAUSE I *KNOW* HIM. KNOW HIM BETTER THAN I LIKE TO ADMIT. BUT THERE WAS NO WAY TO SAY THAT TO THEM, THE FAMILY. TO EXPLAIN IT...

...BUT WHAT HE SAID DOWN THERE, ALFRED, ABOUT WHY I REFUSE TO KILL HIM...?

IT'S TRUE I DON'T DO IT BECAUSE OF MY CODE, BECAUSE OF WHAT I *STAND* FOR. BUT THERE'S ANOTHER REASON, TOO...

AND IT'S THAT THIS CITY... I TRULY BELIEVE THAT IF I DID IT, IF I *KILLED JOKER*, GOTHAM WOULD JUST SEND ME SOMEONE *WORSE*, MAYBE EVEN SEND *HIM* BACK, BUT WORSE THAN BEFORE. I KNOW HOW IT SOUNDS, BUT--

HE'S GONE, NOW, SIR. IT'S OVER.

YES. I'LL RING YOU WHEN THE FAMILY ARRIVES. THAT'S *TIM* TEXTING NOW.

Tim:
Bruce. Something came up. Sorry, I won't be able to make it today.

HE...CAN'T MAKE IT. THERE'S SOMETHING FROM *BARBARA*, TOO.

Barbara:
BRUCE, Dad asked me to help him out. Rejoice.

"STILL NO WORD FROM *JASON*."

"THAT STILL LEAVES MASTER DAMIAN AND -KOFF KOFF-"

"JUST REST, ALFRED. I'LL BE BACK SOON."

Father, decided to train at the bunker downtown. Don't wait up.

BZZT
BZZT

DICK?

BRUCE. I'M JUST CALLING TO--

IT'S ALL RIGHT, I UNDERSTAND.

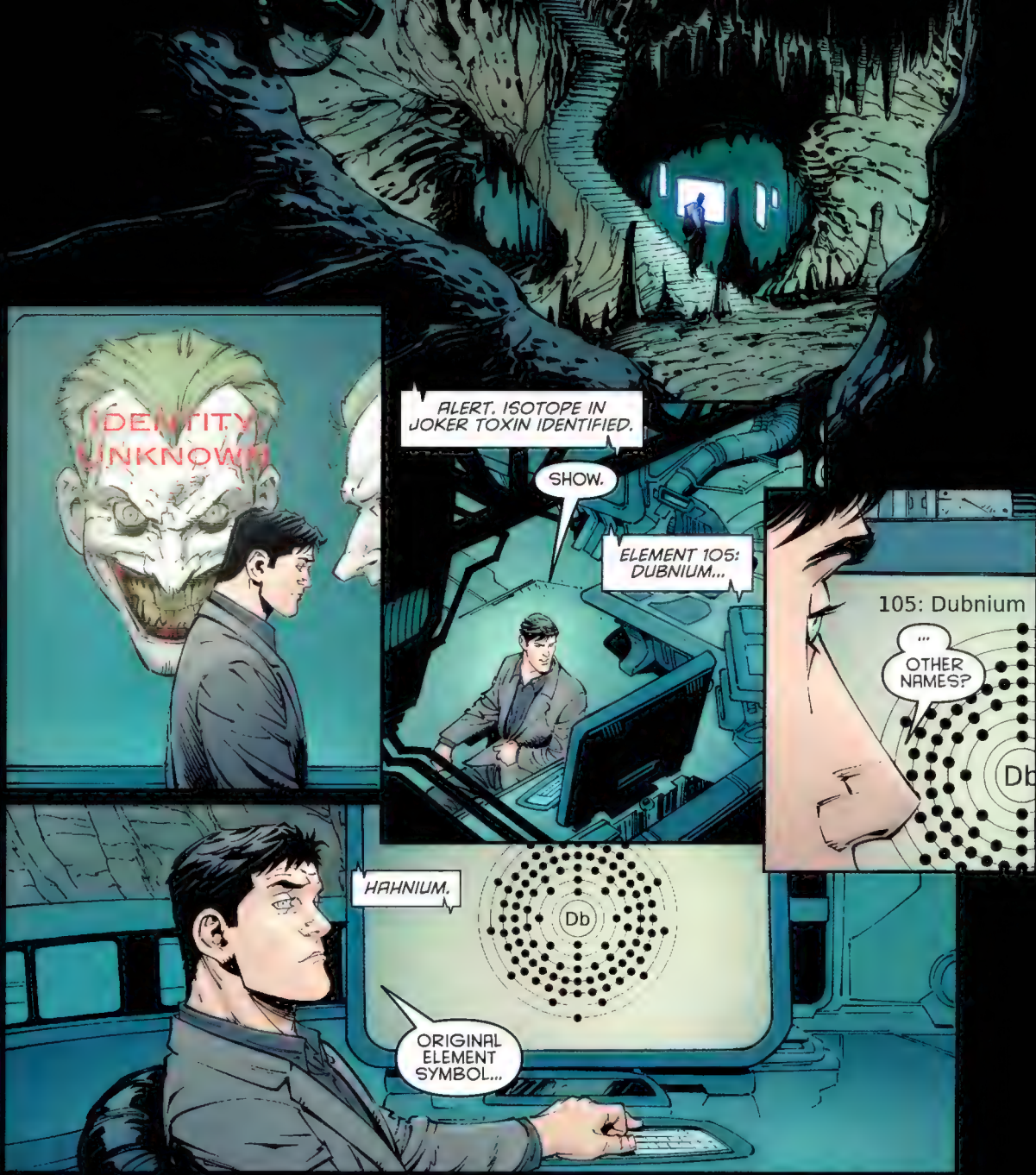
DICK...WHAT DID HE SAY TO YOU IN THE DARK?

IT... IT DOESN'T MATTER.

LISTEN, I'M SORRY I--

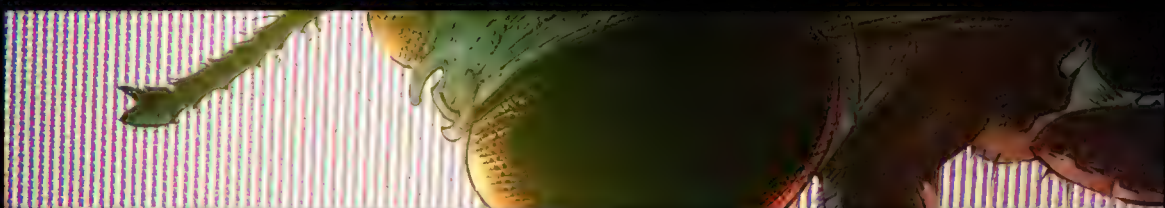
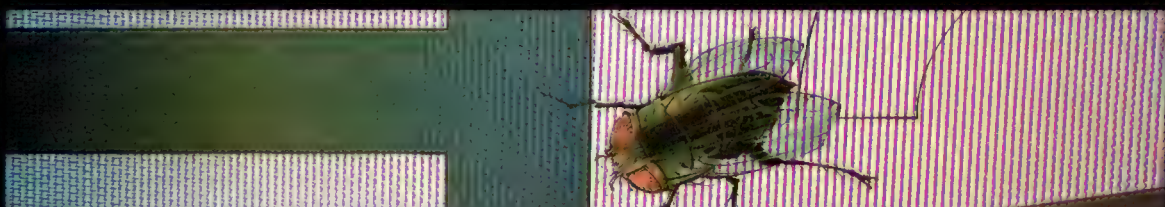
I KNOW YOU ARE.

I'LL SEE YOU AROUND, BRUCE.

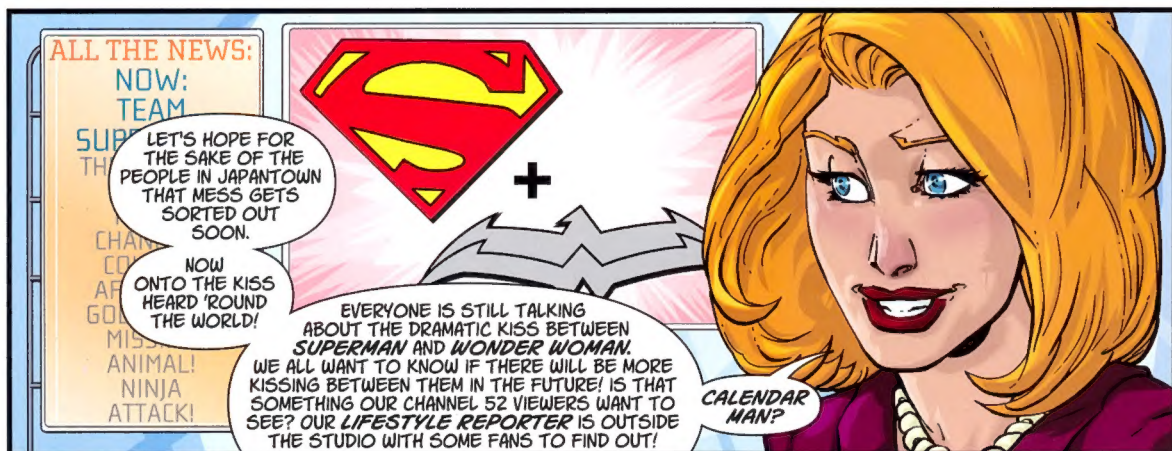
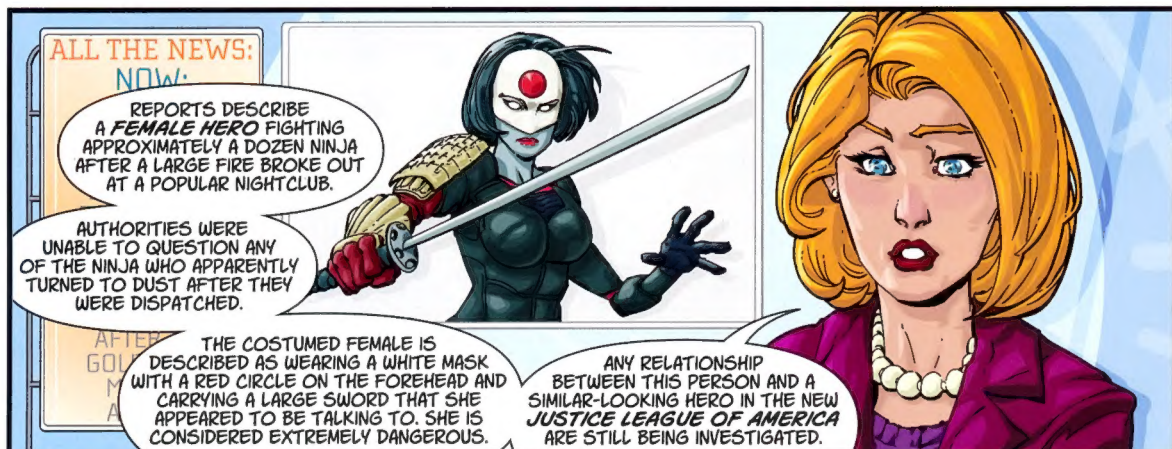
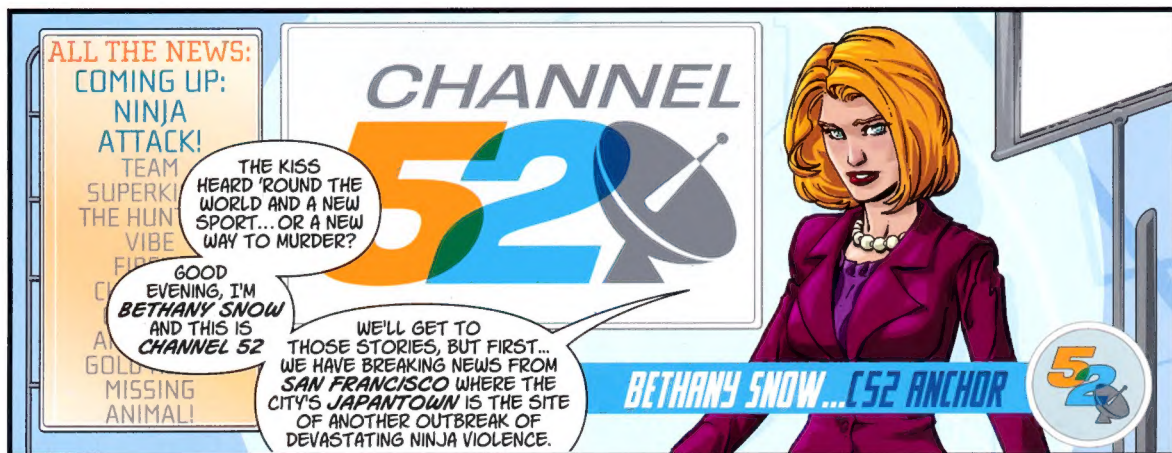


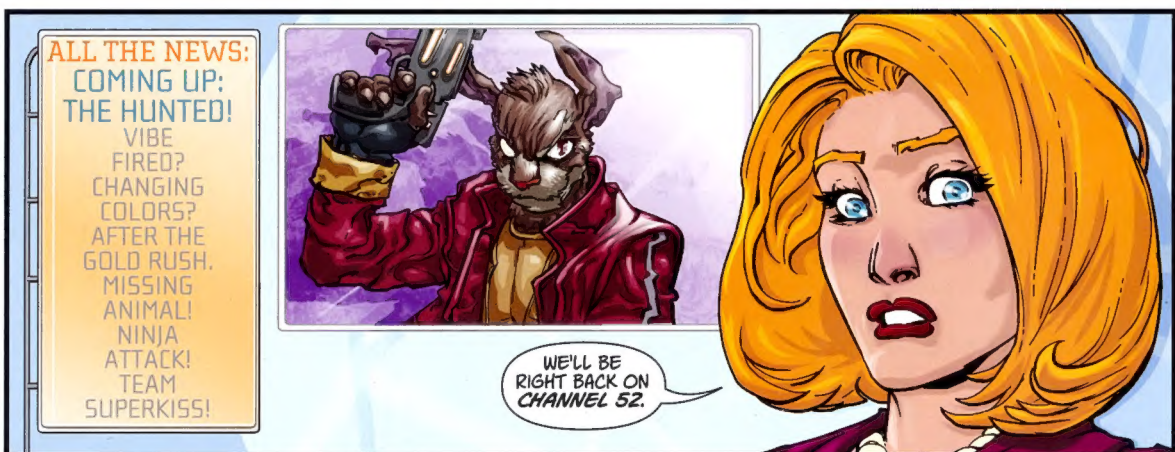
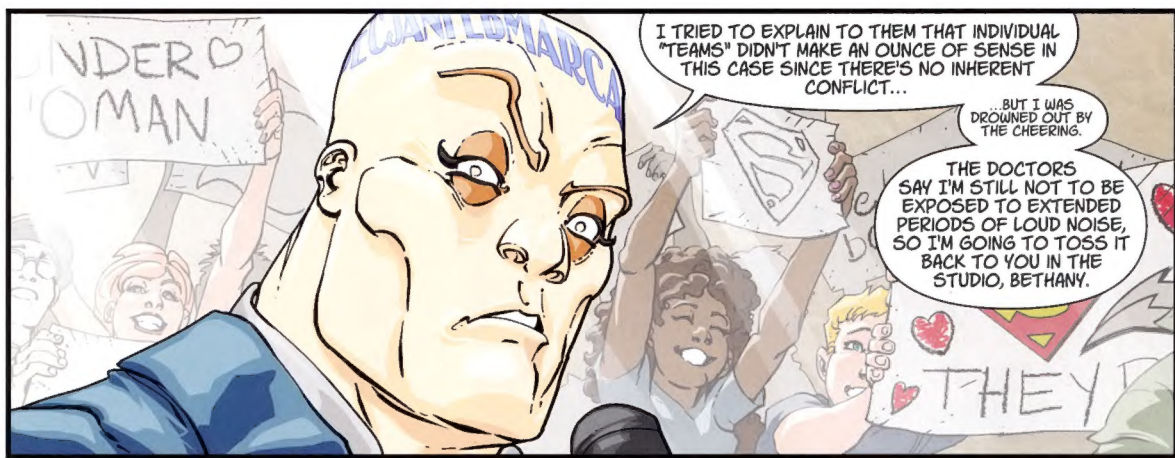


Ha



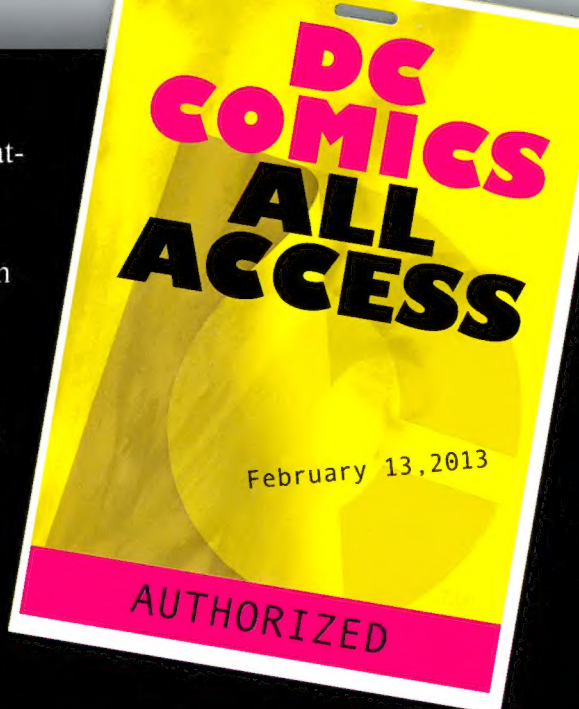
END





A LL THE NEWS...

In a world with Supermen, Wonder Women and Bat-people, finding a program that keeps you current on ALL of the latest news shouldn't be a task you need superpowers for. Hi! I'm Bethany Snow from **Channel 52**, and I'm here to let you know that your search for an all-inclusive newscast is over. We live in fantastic times, so you and your family need to stay informed. You have questions, and we have answers. All of them! From super heroes to super villains and everything in between – if it's affecting your day, you can turn straight to **Channel 52** for answers.



Channel 52 offers you the very best in news coverage with our expert team of on-the-scene reporters, hard-hitting investigative journalism and advanced fact-based reasoning. Speaking of our expert team, let me introduce you to our multi-award-winning field correspondent A. Bug. It's become painfully clear that we're not alone in the universe, so Vartox is here as our off-planet space expert (and also sports!). The social lives of the cape-and-cowl set often impact what happens to us "normal people," so our very own Calendar Man is the **Channel 52** lifestyle reporter and also an inspirational reminder to us all about the positive power of change. Together we will never rest until every question is asked and repackaged as an infographic.

So make sure to tune in to **Channel 52** for your news...all of it!

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